

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A hand-held analyte test instrument comprising:
a housing;
a barcode reader disposed in the housing for scanning a barcode associated with a test strip configured to receive an analyte;
a port disposed in the housing for receiving the test strip;
electronic circuitry in electrical communication with the port for processing an analyte signal received from the test strip and generating analyte data therefrom;
a display in electrical communication with the circuitry for displaying certain analyte data; and

a connector in electrical communication with the circuitry and electrically connectable to a host computer via a data communications network, wherein the circuitry automatically uploads the analyte data to the host computer upon connection thereto.

2. A hand-held analyte test instrument comprising:
a housing;
a port disposed in the housing for receiving a test strip configured to receive an analyte;
electronic circuitry in electrical communication with the port for processing an analyte signal received from the test strip and generating analyte data therefrom;
a display in electrical communication with the circuitry for displaying certain analyte data;
a connector in electrical communication with the circuitry and electrically connectable to a power source; and

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a battery compartment formed in the housing and comprising a pair of electrical contacts for providing power from a battery to the electronic circuitry and a pair of recharge contacts;

a rechargeable battery pack disposed in the battery compartment and comprising (1) a rechargeable battery and (2) a battery holder in which the rechargeable battery is disposed, a bus bar disposed on the battery holder and in electrical communication with the pair of recharge contacts for recharging the battery when the instrument is connected to the power source .

3. A docking station for receiving a hand-held analyte test instrument, the docking station comprising:

a connector electrically connectable to the instrument for receiving analyte data therefrom;

a switch in electrical communication with the connector;

a first data port in electrical communication with the switch and being electrically connectable to a computer;

a second data port in electrical communication with the switch and being electrically connectable to a peripheral device;

a control mechanism for controlling the switch to selectively pass the analyte data to the computer via the first data port or to the peripheral device via the second data port.

4. A method of managing data for a plurality of analyte test instruments connected to a data communication network comprising the steps of:

detecting via a host computer the connection of each instrument to the data communication network;

uploading data received from each instrument to the host computer;

processing the uploaded data on the host computer for operator review; and
downloading configuration data from the host computer to each test instrument, the
downloaded data comprising instrument-specific setup and control data.

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